

ABSTRACT

A program of historical research and archaeological excavation has been completed for state-owned lands on Block 1184 of the Christina Gateway project, located in Wilmington, Delaware. Investigations were carried out for two areas of the block: (1) Lots 58A, 58B and 58C, located at the corner of Spring Alley and Walnut Street, and (2) Lots 3 and 4, located along Second Street. Lots 58A, 58B and 58C were selected because earlier work had identified eighteenth-century deposits that were associated with the parsonage of Old Swedes Church. The lots along Second Street were selected because of possible association with the William Hare Pottery. Well-preserved deposits dating from the early to mid-eighteenth century were identified at the corner of Spring Alley and Walnut Street, and intensive archaeological data recovery was carried out in that area of the block. Only limited work was carried out on the Second Street lots, because that area had been severely disturbed.

The eighteenth-century deposits were sealed within a cellar that was defined by two partially preserved masonry walls. The surviving walls are believed to be the remains of the first parsonage built by Old Swedes Church. The material recovered from the cellar of that structure includes ceramics, bottle glass, architectural remains, dietary material, and other items such as clay tobacco pipes, gunflints, buckles, etc. The material is believed to represent material that had accumulated in the cellar of the old parsonage or which had been discarded when the structure was demolished in 1768.

The site is significant primarily because of its association with Old Swedes Church and because it represents a period of Wilmington's history for which there is very little surviving archaeological or historical information. Analysis of the collection was carried out according to a research design that focused on consumer behavior, particularly foodways. Although the Second Street area had been severely disturbed, some ceramics and kiln furniture associated with the William Hare Pottery were recovered. Also, prehistoric materials were unexpectedly recovered from a variety of contexts throughout Block 1184, providing information regarding the aboriginal occupation of Wilmington.

COVER ILLUSTRATION:

**Ducks in Floral Motif Taken from an
Underglaze-Blue Decorated Oriental
Export Porcelain Saucer.**